

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 03573 210625Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 SCCT-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 /075 W

----- 033067

R 210231Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3573

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

(DEPT. MAY WISH PASS CAIRO/JIDDA WHEN MINIMIZE LIFTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, XF

SUBJECT: MARCOS SAYS RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH MNLF MAY BE
DELAYED

REF: A. MANILA 3502 (NOTAL)

B. MANILA 2265 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AT MARCH 19 PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT MARCOS (IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION) SAID ISLAMIC SECRETARY GENERAL AL-TOHAMY STILL WANTS TALKS BETWEEN GOP AND MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) TO RESUME "AS PLANNED" IN THE FIRST PART OF APRIL. MARCOS THEN OBSERVED THAT TIMING MIGHT BE "DIFFICULT" FOR PHILIPPINE SIDE DUE VISIT TO MANILA OF ROMANIAN PM CEAUSECU (APRIL 9-12). HE ADDED THAT GOP REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF VENUE TO "ANY CITY IN MINDANAO" HAD NOT YET BEEN ACTED UPON, NOTING THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR
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PAGE 02 MANILA 03573 210625Z

AL TOHAMY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE "OTHER SIDE" ON THIS

MATTER. MARCOS WENT ON TO STRESS THAT GOP "PRESENTLY ENGAGED" IN "CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE" WITH REBELS AT LOCAL LEVEL "INCLUDING ELEMENTS OF THE MNLF." (ABOVE BASED ON TAPE OF PRESS CONFERENCE). END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT. AS EMBASSY NOTED IN REF A RE RECENT ADOPTION OF MORE OPTIMISTIC PUBLIC LINE TOWARD GOP-MNLF TALKS, SUBSTANCE OF GOP POSITION REMAINS FAIRLY UNYIELDING. WE SUSPECT GOP MAY DELAY RESUMPTION OF TALKS (POSSIBLY UNTIL AFTER CAIRO ISLAMIC SUMMIT) IN HOPES OF GETTING A MORE FAVORABLE VENUE THAN DIDDAH. SOUTHERN MINDANAO WILL NO DOUBT STRIKE AL-TOHAMY (AND MNLF) AS UNDULY WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF GOP, AND POSSIBLE COMPROMISE COULD BE JAKARTA OR ELSEWHERE IN ASEAN TERRITORY. END CONFIDENTIAL.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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